

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXERCISE TEAMWORK 76: DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: (A) OSLO 3455; (B) STATE 173615

SUMMARY: EMBASSY COPENHAGEN SUPORTS IDEA OF PARTICIPATION BY DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS IN EXERCISE TEAMWORK 76. IDEALLY, INVITATION WOULD COME FROM NORWEGIANS IN ORDER TO MAKE IT AS ATTRACTIVE AS POSSIBLE TO ALL SHADES OF DANISH POLITICAL OPINION. SHOULD NORWEGIANS BE RELUCTANT TO EXTENT OFFER, AN INVITATION FROM NATO, PERHPAS FROM LUNS HIMSELF, WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO AMERICAN INITIATIVE. BEGINNING OF DANISH EXTRAORDINARY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION SEPTEMBER 6 AND COURSE OF EXPECTED DEBATE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, MIGHT MAKE ATTENDANCE OF MANY INVITEES IMPOSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY NORWAY'S ENDORSEMENT OF DEPARTMENT'S EXCELLENT SUGGESTION TO EXPOSE DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO EXERCISE TEAMWORK 76. WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S JUDGMENT THAT INVITATIONS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE
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IF EXTENDED BY NORWEGIANS AND BELIVE THAT A GROUP OF PERHAPS 15 KEY FOLKETING MEMBERS WHO ARE INFLU-

ENTIAL IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE INTER-PARTY
DANISH DEFESNE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.
(NAMES WILL BE SUGGESTED LATER.) WE DOUBT, HOW-
EVER, THAT DANES WOULD PAY FOR ANY PART OF THE
EXPENSES INVOLVED AND THEREFORE AGREE WITH EMBASSY
OSLO THAT THIS QUESTION MUST BE RESOLVED FIRST
BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER WITH THIS IDEA. AT BEST,
DANISH MILITARY MIGHT BE QUERIED EITHER BY THE
NORWEGIANS OR NATO IF THEY COULD FLY DANISH
PARLIAMENTARIANS TO OSLO ONCE FUNDS HAVE BEEN
FOUND TO FINANCE OTHER EXPENSES.

2. TO ACHIEVE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF INFLU-
ENCING DANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS SO THAT THEY WILL BE
SYMPATHETIC TO MAINTAINING ADEQUATE DEFESNE SPENDING
LEVELS IN THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT, IT IS ESSENTIAL
THAT NOT ONLY THE "CONVERTED" ACCEPT INVITATION.
RATHER, ALSO, THOSE PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO ARE MORE
SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE VALUE OF COMMON DEFENSE SHOULD
BE EXPOSED TO EXERCISE TEAMWORK 76. FOLKETING
MEMBERS IN THE LATTER CATEGORY WILL BE MORE PRONE
TO ACCEPT TRAVEL TO NORWAY IF US INFLUENE IS KEPT
IN THE BACKGROUND. THIS EXPLAINS OUR PREFERENCE
FOR FIRST THE NORWEGIANS AND NEXT NATO TO TAKE
THE INITIATIVE ON THE INVITATION,

3. FINALLY, WHILE URGING THAT WE PROCEED WITH OUR
EFFORTS TO FACILITATE DANISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTICI-
PATION IN EXERCISE TEAMWORK 76, WE WISH TO CALL
ATTENTION TO THE EXTRAORDINARY DANISH FOLKETING
SESSION WHICH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 6. AN IMPORTANT
DEBATE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AT
THAT TIME WHICH DOULD BE CRUCIAL FOR THE SURVIVAL OF
THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. THIS COULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE
FOR MANY INVITEES TO PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE TEAMWORK
76.
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